

TRIBUTE TO MR. R. STEPHEN  
BEST

## HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Steve Best, on the occasion of his retirement as Fire Chief of the Chesapeake Fire Department.

Chief Best's contributions to the safety and health of the City of Chesapeake's citizens cannot be overstated. Chief Best modernized and diversified Chesapeake's fire and emergency personnel services to meet the wide-ranging challenges of modern life.

Chief Best began his fire fighting career as a sixteen-year-old volunteer with the Deep Creek Volunteer Fire Department. That experience led to professional firefighting with the Chesapeake Fire Department upon graduating from high school in 1974.

Working his way up through the ranks, Best worked as Fire Inspector and Fire Marshal for Chesapeake. He was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief, then Deputy Fire Chief until April 1998 when he became Chesapeake's Fire Chief and Emergency Services Coordinator.

Chief Best has ensured the Chesapeake Fire Department is able to respond to specialized situations involving hazardous materials, technical rescues, marine incidents, and foam firefighting. He greatly assisted in equipping every Chesapeake fire engine and ambulance with Advanced Life Support Equipment to save precious time in beginning life saving procedures. Best's fire department embodies a sense of community by offering programs such as child safety seat installations, fire station tours, and fire extinguisher training.

During his professional career, Chief Best continued to pursue educational opportunities. In addition to an Associate's Degree in Fire Science, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Governmental Administration, and a Master's Degree in Business Administration, Chief Best graduated with a Juris Doctor Degree from the Regent University School of Law in May 2008.

At home, Chief Best and his wife Sheree reside in Chesapeake. They are the proud parents of two sons. Chief Best teaches Sunday School at Deep Creek United Methodist Church and has served in many leadership roles on the Church Council. He has also served as a board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Virginia, Chesapeake Division, the Chesapeake Public School Foundation, and the YMCA Board of Management.

Chief Best deserves the gratitude of all of Chesapeake's residents for his innumerable accomplishments that have improved the quality of life here. Madam Speaker, please join me and the citizens of Chesapeake in offering our sincere congratulations to Chief Best on his exemplary service and a retirement well deserved.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

## HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-country derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Chair, I strongly support the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and urge my Colleagues to vote for this bill.

I'm proud to chair the Populist Caucus. One of our founding principles is to fight for America's working families. For the past eight years, our economic policies have put the interests of Wall Street ahead of Main Street. Wall Street and big bank executives exploited loopholes and gambled with our money, which last year led us into the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. And while some big banks continue to accept excessive compensation and bonus packages, America's middle class families are still struggling.

The firms that received more than \$350 billion in federal TARP funds increased executive compensation by an average of four percent last year. This is outrageous and unacceptable. This legislation will provide shareholders of public companies an annual vote on executive compensation and help reign in excessive executive compensation.

The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act will hold Wall Street and big banks accountable by ending the practice of "too-big-to-fail," so that America's taxpayers and middle class families are never again forced to pay off Wall Street's gambling debts. It will manage financial crises by requiring banks and other financial institutions worth at least \$50 billion in assets to foot the bill for any bailouts in the future.

As we rebuild our economy, we must implement common-sense rules so that big banks and Wall Street don't jeopardize this recovery at the expense of hard-working Iowa families. This bill protects consumers from predatory lending abuses and finally brings transparency and accountability to an out-of-control financial system. It is about time that we put Main Street ahead of Wall Street. Thank you for taking up this important legislation.

### EARMARK DECLARATION

## HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Republican Leadership standards, I am submitting the following information regarding projects I received funding for as part of as part of the conference report to the Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3288), which were not included in House-passed appropriations bills:

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Agency: Department of Health & Human Services

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Cherry Street Health Services

Address of Requesting Entity: 550 Cherry St., SE., Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Description of Request: The bill provides \$400,000 for Cherry Street Health Services for facilities and equipment. Cherry Street (community health center), Touchstone Innovare (mental health services) and ProAction (substance abuse/mental health treatment) are developing an integrated care system in which patients in need of both mental health and physical health care will be involved in an integrated plan of treatment in which both medical and mental health professionals from different agencies work together in the same office space to complete a plan of treatment, a valuable use of taxpayer funds. In order to provide services to an increased number of patients, the three agencies are building a 92,000 sq. ft. building that will house the operations of the three organizations. The medical, dental and vision care equipment requested will be used in the operation of a federally qualified health center for the treatment of low-income patients most of whom would otherwise not have access to primary health care services.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Agency: Federal Transit Administration

Account: Buses and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Rapid

Address of Requesting Entity: 300 Ellsworth Ave., SW., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503

Description of Request: The bill provides \$1,948,000 for the Rapid's Wealthy Operations Center Expansion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The funding was requested by the Rapid. This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will allow the Rapid, the region's largest public transportation service, to expand to accommodate growth needs over the next 30 years.

HONORING MS. EDNA FRADY FOR HER DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA

## HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Edna Frady for her decades of service to the City of Falls Church, Virginia and its people. Moving to Falls Church at an early age, Edna has spent virtually her entire life in the community she has known and loved for over six decades. Through her charitable work and civic involvement, Edna, or "Boss" as she is known by many, has left an indelible mark on the City.

A tireless community activist, leader, friend, and role model, Edna Frady has made a lifelong commitment to improving the lives of others. The list of organizations she has served